

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated March 16, 2006, within the three-month period for response. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the subject Office Action, claims 2-4, 8-11, 14-17, 21-25 and 28-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,594,712 to Pettey et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,581,787 to Saeki et al. The Examiner did indicate, however, that claims 1, 5-7, 12-13, 18-20 and 26-27 were directed to patentable subject matter.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections to the extent that they are maintained. Nonetheless, Applicants have canceled claims 6 and 19, amended claims 2, 7, 15 and 20, and added new claims 32-35 such that all pending claims now recite subject matter previously found to be allowable by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is being added by the above amendments, as the amendments are fully supported in the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

In particular, independent claims 2 and 15 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of objected-to claims 6 and 19. Independent claim 30 has also been amended to incorporate the subject matter of objected-to claim 19. New independent claims 32, 33, 34 and 35 respectively correspond to the subject matter recited in objected-to claims 5, 12, 18 and 26. For consistency with these amendments, claims 6 and 19 have been canceled, and claims 7 and 20 have been amended to respectively depend from claims 2 and 15.

As such, all pending claims now recite subject matter that has previously been found to be allowable over the prior art of record by the Examiner. Consideration and allowance of independent claims 2, 15, 30 and 32-35, as well as of claims 3-5, 7-14, 16-18, 20-29 and 31 which depend therefrom, are therefore respectfully requested.

In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding

the foregoing, or which might otherwise further this case onto allowance, the Examiner may contact the undersigned at (513) 241-2324. Moreover, if any other charges or credits are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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